

OPPORTUNITY NEIGHBORHOODS: FOCAL AREAS AND STRATEGIES

Focal Area 1: Family and community engagement

1. Help identify and prioritize community needs
2. Support youth, families, and individuals as they connect with each other, share knowledge of community services and resources, and provide each other with social and emotional support
3. Advocate for youth, families, and individuals
4. Promote and ensure access to opportunities for civic engagement and empowerment to lift the voices of under-represented youth, families, and individuals
5. Promote opportunities to develop leadership skills for youth, families, and individuals, to support community development and engagement and communicate needed improvements in civic infrastructure to policy makers

Focal Area 2: Connected and motivated youth

1. Promote academic support to youth and families
2. Connect children and youth to out-of-school time activities
3. Promote and support mentoring to children and youth
4. Coordinate support networks for youth
5. Facilitate opportunities for participating in community service activities for youth, families, and individuals

Focal Area 3: School readiness, early childhood education, and literacy

1. Partner with parents to promote kindergarten and school readiness as a key priority for long-term student success
2. Provide support and professional development opportunities for early childhood educators
3. Coordinate the work of partners in support of school readiness efforts
4. Reinforce families' annual school readiness efforts by providing access to school supplies and other resources when needed
5. Promote out-of-school learning and enrichment programming for children and youth
6. Offer a variety of literacy development opportunities across the age spectrum

Focal Area 4: Service access and navigation

1. Facilitate opportunities for skills development and progress toward self-sufficiency for youth, families, and individuals
2. Connect service providers through partnerships that help to leverage resources and eliminate gaps
3. Provide youth, families, and individuals with referrals and information about available services
4. Promote trauma awareness and access to physical, mental, and behavioral health services for youth, families, and individuals
5. Link youth, families, and individuals to case management services
6. Coordinate equitable access to basic needs assistance including food, housing, economic assistance, safety, and legal assistance, and communicate equity gaps and barriers to policy makers

Focal Area 5: Workforce readiness and student career preparedness

1. Facilitate preparation for and access to advanced learning, STEAM, college readiness, and career and technical training for students
2. Provide support in career preparation for youth, families, and individuals
3. Promote workforce development classes for youth, families, and individuals
4. Facilitate preparation for and equitable access to employment opportunities for youth, families, and individuals
5. Coordinate support to increase financial literacy for youth, families, and individuals